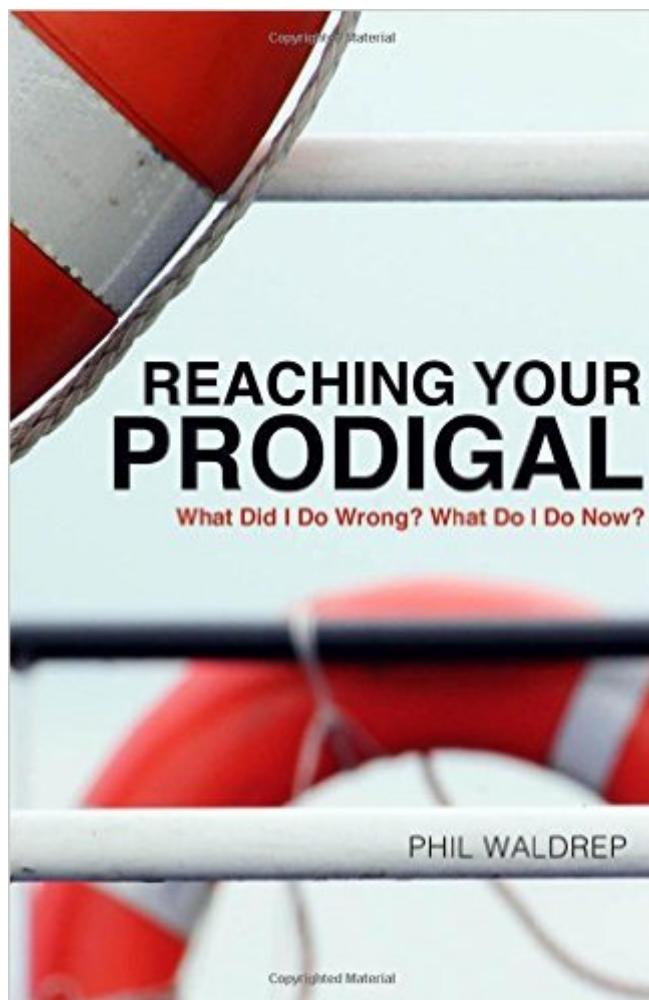


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# Reaching Your Prodigal: What Did I Do Wrong? What Do I Do Now?



## **Synopsis**

Prodigals come in many forms. We often think of the defiant ones as prodigals, but there are other types that break our hearts: embarrassing, intellectual, lukewarm, and religious prodigals. The word prodigal means wasted. Like the younger son in Jesus' parable, many of our loved ones are wasting their lives. Learn how to love them no matter what form of wasted they choose. . . . Understanding, encouragement, and real solutions for parents who want to do the right thing but are not quite sure exactly what that might be. This book is a must! -- Andy Andrews, New York Times best-selling author of *The Traveler's Gift* and *The Noticer* *Reaching Your Prodigal* is an honest but tender book filled with wisdom. -- Candace Cameron Bure, actress, author, cohost of *The View* An insightful, practical guide for grandparents and parents everywhere. Hopeful and encouraging, this book provides the answers you've been looking for. -- Margaret Feinberg, author of *Fight Back With Joy*, *Wonderstruck*, and *Live Loved: An Adult Coloring Book*

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Many families are in crisis mode and contain at least one prodigal member. The author does not define prodigal only as a family member who has physically left the home, but a family member who is wayward or absent emotionally, mentally, spiritually, or physically. The message is not preachy, harsh, or scolding, but one of prayer, gentle love, and patience toward the strayed family member. Although there are no perfect parents, the responsibility/consequences of the actions of the prodigal ultimately lie with the prodigal. The author will work with you in the areas of guilt, heartache, extending love, guarding your tongue, and praying prayers that are difficult. You will be encouraged

to not give up, not quit, and continually seek strength from God, prayer warriors, and counsel. This book is needed more than ever and I highly recommend it to you as an aid in your present situation. Included in this text is a study guide that would be perfect for family, small group, prayer meeting, or Sunday School class curriculum. Consider buying a copy for yourself and your pastor.

Webster's online dictionary defines "prodigal" as "1. Rashly or wastefully extravagant" and "2. Giving or given in abundance; lavish or profuse". This pretty well ties in to the Biblical story of the Prodigal Son, who indeed lived a wastefully extravagant life.... at least until the money ran out. A modern retelling of the thematic elements of this story might be, "spoiled rich kid takes his inheritance and blows it all on wine, women and song, and upon realizing his physical and spiritual condition, comes back home with tail tucked between his legs." Christian communicator, Phil Waldrep, delivers a paradigm that causes most of us to see a prodigal in a completely different light. In "Reaching Your Prodigal", Waldrep shows us other situations in which we could consider a loved one as a prodigal under circumstances that aren't necessarily the norm. Much can be said of the Father in the prodigal story. One factor that struck me in this biblical tale is the fact that the father saw his defeated son returning home from a far distance away. It speaks of a father who very much loved his wayward son, regardless of his dumb decisions, and constantly had his eyes focused on the horizon. I think the loving father knew in his heart that his prodigal would one day return home, and he didn't want to miss that occasion. Waldrep directs us to look deeper within the psyche of the prodigals in our family. He doesn't limit the prodigal title to those family members who simply take physical leave of the family and run off and live the high life. His variety of prodigal family members shows us that most all of us have some sort of prodigal living under our roof. Whether they be physically absent, socially or mentally absent, or absent from the family dynamic because of philosophies of life, illness, addictions or other contrasting beliefs. This is where the book gets quite interesting as it guides us through the processes of welcoming and loving the prodigal back into the family fold. All in all, I found this look at our prodigals to be refreshing, new, and quite challenging. And I commend this book to you for your own edification and reading enjoyment. Many books have been written through the ages about this all too familiar biblical story. But, I think Phil Waldrep does an excellent job in addressing his own view of things, and passing those understandings on to those of us who are either parents of a prodigal, or a one time or another, were prodigals ourselves. A very good read, from a very good author and communicator.

If you are reading this may I say you are not alone. I find this book unique in its way past convincing

you have a problem. It may equally talk about your prodigal child but you will feel you could feel in the blanks if there were some with your name. Having been a witness to the experience for many years I think this book will lift a lot of useless shame and guilt and point you to many loving measures to open the door to a possible return of your loved one.

I like the different topics and examples seen through the eyes of others people who are experiencing prodigals. This generation has their heart in materials things and left their Christian life. Above all, we are encouraged to love them like God's love them.

Absolutely the best book I have read yet on the subject of prodigals. I have read many. This book gives you honest reasons that might have led your child to walk away from God and steps parents can take to deal with the situation in a Godly way. The main point I will take away from this book is "Lord, change me".

**SUMMARY:**With dissonance between generations at a high level today, church and faith are the latest victims to the discord. As prodigals turn away from their faith, family and friends, often times hope is lost. Through wisdom, compassion and expertise, author Phil Waldrep offers empathy, grace, concern and that longed-for hope to those experiencing heartache, guilt and worry. From understanding the pain, to dealing with the guilt, to praying hard prayers, and finally hoping for a faith-filled conclusion, Reaching Your Prodigal helps when hurt is the greatest.  
**A PENNY FOR MY THOUGHTS:** With what appears to be a growing issue between age groups, this book hits that hard topic straight on. Offering that hope and grace to parents, grandparents, family members and friends, is priceless. With suggestions, knowledge and ways to heal, Phil Waldrep does an excellent job of helping those hurting so they can in turn, help the prodigal. Well-written, faith-directed and full of encouragement, Reaching Your Prodigal is perfect for a Bible-study, sermon series, or someone with a prodigal in his/ her life.  
**RATING:** 5 (out of 5) pennies\*I received a complimentary copy of Reaching Your Prodigal from Worthy Publishing for my honest review\*

I purchased this book after listening to the author on the radio. What an encouragement it has been to me. I would encourage anyone with a prodigal in their life to read this book and put the author's recommendations into practice.

Got a prodigal? READ THIS BOOK!Practical and realistic. VERY helpful!Answers ALOT of

questions.

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